



I. I OPEN MYSELF, AND MAKE ROOM IN MY HEART TO EXPERIENCE THE PAIN, DEMORALIZATION, VIOLENCE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES EXPERIENCED BY SO MANY GIRLS, WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND YOUNG PEOPLE, WHO ARE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND LABOUR

Suggestions:

✓ Prepare the space in the theme of the prayer

You are invited to watch this VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5OcDSWdFdY>

✓ ***Community Conversation Circle***

- ❖ Moment of silence to look at the image above and relate it to the video: What catches your attention? What reflections, questions arise? How does your heart feel?
 - ❖ Have you encountered this situation in your work and life?
 - ❖ This conversation comes to an end by reading and reflecting on the the following text. A song can be sung or a paryer can be said.
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2. TIME TO CONTEMPLATE THE REALITY OF TRAFFICKING FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OR LABOUR : to be silent, to feel, to empathize, to lament

Personal reflection (Prayerful reading)

- ❖ Take the time to read the following text and underline what impacts and moves your heart
- ❖ Listen to the call of God in Isaiah 6 - 8 “Whom shall I send? Who will go for me?”
- ❖ Based on what you are feeling write a prayer for the victims of human trafficking or draw a symbol that expresses what your heart is feeling.

TEXT

Human Trafficking is a growing global criminal industry that defies human rights and affronts human dignity. Trafficking is an injustice rooted in dynamics of our global world and current global economy. Structures and systems that intensify social inequality, support patriarchal power, prioritize economic profit above the value of the human person, and diminish the value of social relationships render untold women and children vulnerable to being trafficked for labor, human organ harvesting, surrogate pregnancy, and/or sexual exploitation. Trafficking is congruent with all forms of gender discrimination and gender-based violence, including the industries and governments that sustain prostitution and pornography. OLCGS stands with all persons who condemn this phenomenon and work to eradicate it and its systemic roots.¹

“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion,” are some of the actions that define the crime of trafficking in persons, according to the United Nations. According to the International Organization for Migration, 40 million people are subjected to specific exploitation worldwide. There are many more alarming figures about the scourge of human trafficking.

Human trafficking is one the criminal activities that generates the most profit annually. It is estimated that traffickers manage to obtain approximately 150,000 million dollars, as a result of the commercialization of boys, girls, adolescents, men and women in types of human trafficking, which include sexual slavery, forced labor, begging, marriage servile or servitude and the illegal removal of organs. Thus, trafficking is the third most lucrative illicit business after drug and arms trafficking.

Sexual exploitation is one of the most demanded and common means of trafficking. Of the total victims, a quarter are boys and more than half are girls and women.

Human trafficking is a transnational phenomenon that is shocking from any point of view due to the amount of money it produces, the negative impact it has on people and its increase in all countries.

- ❖ Pray the Psalm

Thus, says your God: Listen my people,

¹ Congregational Position Papers 2018

I am the one who formed you and saved you, contending for your freedom
I don't want your sacrifices, or alms, or your praises
Take your stained hands away from me,
The hands stained with your sister's blood.

Who will go for me? Who will tell my people?
I created them, I cared tenderly for them
and today they want to forget me;
to live in oblivion of me.

Do not oppress the poor and the orphan
Do not refuse them their wages.
And do not steal their bread pretending to
help them,
Because they are before my eyes.

Share your bread with your hungry sister and brother
What is hoarded will spoil.
Because the bread that you keep
it belongs to the hungry;
Don't wait until tomorrow.
(Cf. Is. 6,8)

3. TIME TO LOOK AT OURSELVES AND ACT. WHAT IS OUR RESPONSE TO THIS FORM OF "TRAMPLING" HUMAN DIGNITY?

Community Prayer Circle

- ❖ Share a personal reflection: the prayer or symbol that expresses your feeling
- ❖ Look at ourselves as a community or group and ask ourselves what is our response to this way of "trampling" human dignity: indifference, powerlessness, excuse ("I am very old, I cannot do anything"); lacking knowledge of or being unaware of human trafficking and its effects. ("Here in this city, in this place nothing like this happens")
- ❖ What concrete actions can we carry out based on our new knowledge and prayer on the reality?
- ❖ End with prayer or song

